



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

Applicants: Jude S. Sauer et al.

Serial No.: 09/776,431

Filed: 02/02/2001

For: SYSTEM FOR ENDOSCOPIC SUTURING

Examiner: Robert H. Muromoto, Jr. Art Unit: 3765

Atty. Docket: LS-002

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 4, 2003, Applicants elect Group I Claims 1-32, 44-48, 73 and 74. As the species election requirement pertains to claims of non-elected Group II, no election of species is being made at this time. If needed, such election of species will be made in a possible Divisional Application having claims of Group II. Applicants believe that Claim 72 should also be included in elected Group I claims, as this claim was not included in Groups II or III, and although a method claim, Claim 72 is closer in scope to claims of Group I than of Groups II or III.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 4, 2003

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